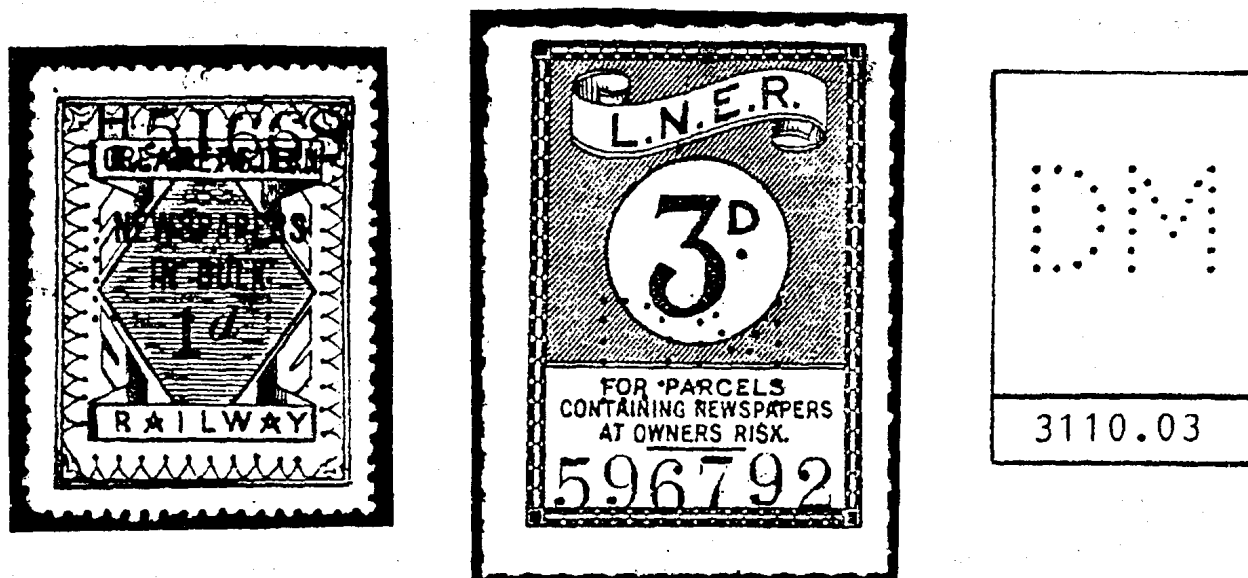


PERFINED RAILWAY NEWSPAPER PARCEL STAMPS

During correspondence with a non-perfin collecting philatelist, ALAN VIOLET, he mentioned that he had five Railway Newspaper Parcel stamps which were perfined 'DM'. No problem with the identity, The Daily Mail, but it did make me wonder about the mechanics of perforating the stamps.



One stamp illustrated is a 3d L.N.E.R., the other a 1d Great Eastern Railway stamp which is overprinted LNER. The 'DM' perfin can be seen quite clearly on the 3d stamp but not quite so well on the 1d. Alan also has a 1d and 2d of the L.N.E.R. stamp and a 3d of the Great Eastern Railway overprinted LNER.

The perfin would appear to be D3110.03 and if this is so, then it must be a single die machine to perforate stamps so much larger than postage stamps. This same die is also found on the large size British Empire Exhibition stamps of 1924 and 1925.

I am guessing that The Daily Mail despatch office would buy a stock of various values of Railway Newspaper Parcel stamps from the Railway, perfin them in the same way as their postage stamps, then be responsible for weighing their own parcels of newspapers for despatch to all points of the country and affixing the appropriate value of stamps

If anyone can 'out guess' me, I will be only too pleased to hear a more accurate explanation.

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